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To: The Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038

Food which has been irradiated must be clearly and accurately labeled.

As an American citizen, as a person requiring the highest quality food, as an advocate of environmental protection, I insist on having all relevant information about the food I purchase. I have the right to know if my food has been exposed to irradiation.

The labeling of irradiated foods is especially important since this new technology is controversial. Issues about nutritional loss, taste distortion and potentially harmful chemical changes have not been resolved.

I am concerned that sloppy (and disgusting) food processing practices will not be addressed by food companies using irradiation. They may believe all bacteria and viruses will be destroyed by the radiation, and therefore not clean up their systems. This is especially true of meat. Eating irradiated feces is not reassuring to me as a consumer. I want, need and demand to be fully informed so that I am able to choose what foods I purchase.

Retain the current labeling law. Use the word "irradiation" and not "pasteurization". Bins of irradiated fruits or vegetables, and package meat, should have clearly visible signs using the term "irradiated". Labeled food should have labels that are clearly visible, large and clear, preferably in the front of the package. Using the symbol for irradiation should not substitute for the word.

Very truly yours,

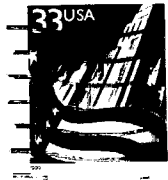
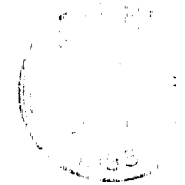

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cc President W. J. Clinton

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